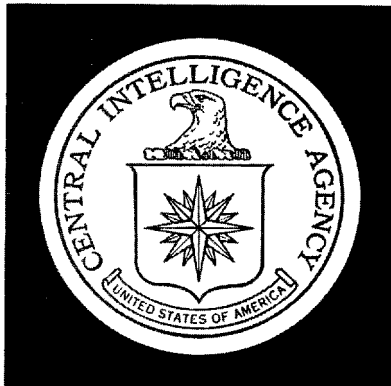


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DIRECTORATE OF
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Weekly Report

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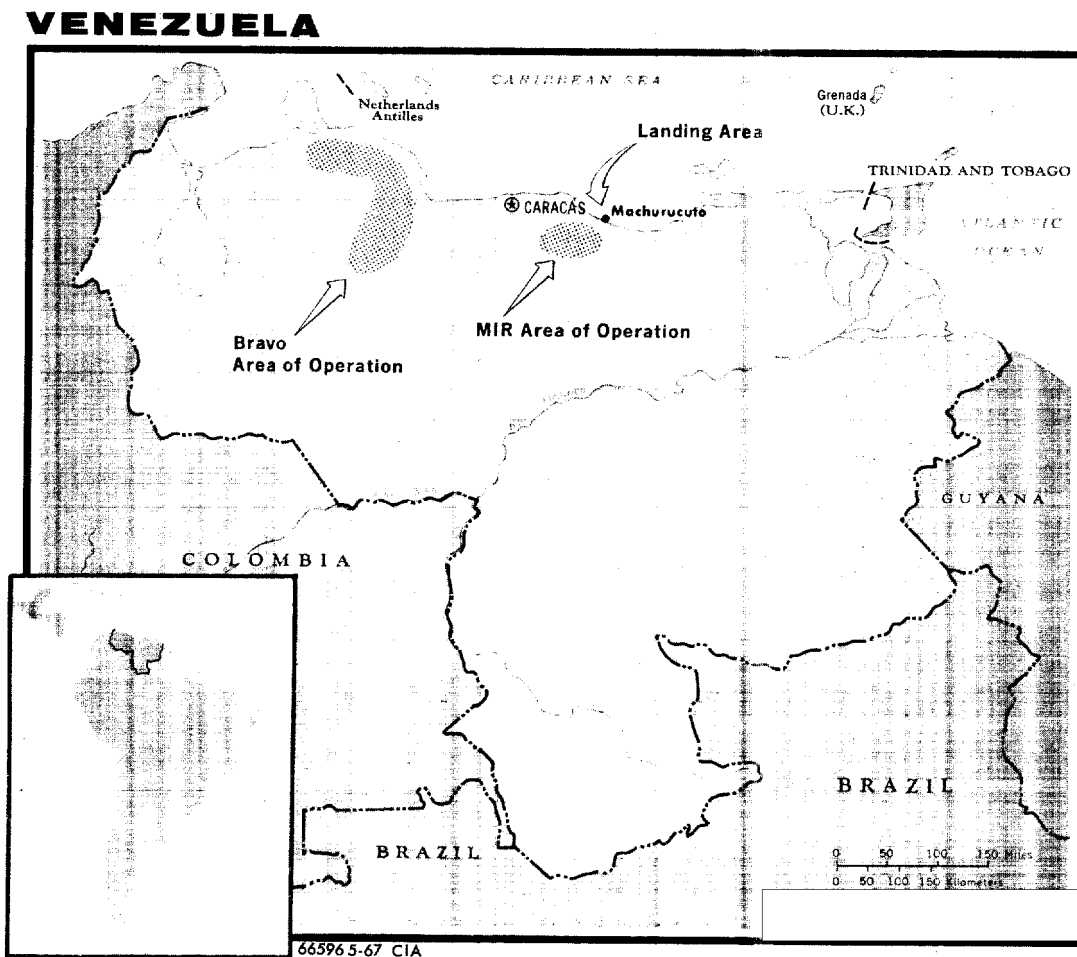
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2. VENEZUELA

Last week's landing of Venezuelan guerrillas escorted by Cuban military personnel near the coastal village of Machurucuto (see map) will intensify Venezuelan efforts to condemn Cuba before the Organization of American States (OAS) and perhaps the United Nations. The capture of the Cubans provides Venezuela with strong evidence of Cuban intervention in Venezuelan affairs.

In November 1963 a large arms cache from Cuba was discovered in northern Venezuela. The following summer the OAS condemned Cuban intervention and called on all member nations to break relations with Cuba. This time, Venezuela is expected to call for stronger action, possibly including UN economic sanctions. Venezuela has been gathering Latin American support for action against Cuba since last March, when Communist terrorists murdered the Venezuelan foreign minister's brother. A number of countries have expressed support for a special OAS meeting, although ideas as to possible action vary widely.

The government's actions against the recent landing probably will intensify the debate within the Venezuelan Communist movement as to the efficacy of armed struggle. The men and supplies may have been intended for a guerrilla group of the pro-Castro Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) now operating in the Bachiller Mountains southeast of Caracas. The Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) is deeply split over the matter, and one dissident Castroite guerrilla force is presently operating under Douglas Bravo in the west. The leadership of the PCV was reported at one time to have abandoned armed struggle but is now said to be planning to build up a guerrilla front in eastern Venezuela.

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4. SPAIN-GIBRALTAR

Spain is stepping up pressure on Britain to relax control over Gibraltar. Madrid has restricted aircraft flights over Spanish waters adjacent to the colony and is wooing local Gibraltar leaders by suggesting that Spain would be prepared to accept autonomy as a solution.

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Madrid's current moves are tied to the September deadline for negotiations and progress toward "decolonization" called for in the UN General Assembly's resolution of 20 December 1966. London balked on the fifth round of talks--scheduled for mid-April--when Madrid announced new air traffic restrictions. Trade and vehicular traffic between Spain and Gibraltar has been blocked since October 1966.

Since the new limitations would severely restrict commercial operations, London wants the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to postpone implementation pending negotiations. Madrid argues that ICAO is powerless to interfere, because the airfield is officially military.

Spain wants Britain to surrender control of the airstrip, which is located on the isthmus leading to the Rock. According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, if the UK would designate it a civilian airport and discontinue military use, overflight restrictions might be reconsidered. Then, he said, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) might adjudicate control of the isthmus. The UK has offered to take the status of the colony to the ICJ.

The UN has called for self-determination, and the UK may propose a UN-supervised referendum which probably would favor continuing ties with Britain.

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